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—“Practical Work in Organic Chemistry,” by Frederick William Streatfeild, just published by Spon, is one of the Finsbury Technical Manuals. The Finsbury Technical College gives instruction in both day and evening classes to those who wish to qualify themselves for filling positions requiring technical skill. The author, who is the demonstrator of chemistry at Finsbury, after describing the operations in organic chemistry, such as purification, crystallization, determination of melting point, and the mode of analysis, devotes most of his space to oxalic acid, alcohol, the fats and oils, and the coal-tar products.

—Everyone interested in the betterment of public roads and highways should read the article, in the September *Lippincott's Magazine*, by John Gilmer Speed on “Country Roads and Highways.” That we have very bad roads in this country is an accepted fact, but few realize how very bad they are in comparison with those of many foreign countries. Besides calling attention to the wretched condition of our roads, and telling what has been done

in different States for their betterment, Mr. Speed offers some valuable suggestions.

—The Academy of Music in this city will open its coming season on Thursday, Sept. 3, with a romantic spectacular play called “The Soudan.” This drama was produced, and ran for two seasons, at the Drury Lane Theatre, London, under the title of “Human Nature.” The story, which is a strong one, deals with events which occurred during the campaign for the relief of Gen. Gordon and other Europeans, who were held prisoners at Khartoum by the Arabs, during the war in the Soudan. The scenes, which are laid in England and Egypt, afford an excellent opportunity for a display of grandeur such as few other attractions of the kind can boast of. The Arab city, attacked and carried by English soldiers, or the surging crowd at Trafalgar Square, London, cheering and shouting words of welcome to the victorious Guards, makes a never-to-be-forgotten stage-picture.

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